

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON CUBA DELIVERED TODAY IN SENATE:

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"LAST MIDNIGHT, ROME TIME, IN TELEVISION ADDRESS, OF WHICH ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN INFORMED SEVERAL HOURS IN ADVANCE, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ANNOUNCED, AMONG OTHER MEASURES, DECISION TAKEN BY AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT ARRIVAL OF OFFENSIVE WEAPONS IN ISLAND OF CUBA; REQUEST MADE TO UN TO ORDER DISMANTLING OF ALL WEAPONS OF OFFENSIVE CHARACTER; AND CONFIRMATION, IN SPECIAL APPEAL TO PRIME MINISTER KHRUSHCHEV, OF AMERICA'S READINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY DISCUSSIONS OF THE GRAVE PROBLEMS WHICH, UNRESOLVED, MENACE PEACE.

NO ONE CAN IGNORE, AND CERTAINLY ITALY DOES NOT IGNORE IT, THAT CONCENTRATION OF OFFENSIVE WEAPONS IN CUBA CAUSES VERY DEEP CONCERN FOR MAINTENANCE OF PEACE NOT ONLY IN THE CARIBBEAN AND WESTERN HEMISPHERE BUT ALSO IN ANY PART OF WORLD. ITALY HAS ALWAYS OPPOSED SENDING OR TRANSPORTING OF ARMS IN ITALIAN SHIPS IN ANY PART OF WORLD WHERE PEACE MAY BE DISTURBED. GOVERNMENT HAS FOLLOWED THIS POLICY ALSO WITH REGARD TO CUBA, SO MUCH SO THAT IN CRITICAL PERIOD JUNE-AUGUST 1962 ONLY FOUR ITALIAN VESSELS ENGAGED IN COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC WITH CUBA, BUT NONE OF THEM CARRIED WEAPONS OR IMPORTANT STRATEGIC MATERIAL. THE GOVERNMENT IS STILL GUIDED BY THIS POLICY IN THE HOPE THAT ALL THE ITALIAN CITIZENS, AND ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD WHO ARE SINCERELY LOVERS OF PEACE DO THE SAME.

AT VERY MOMENT WHEN DISCUSSIONS FOR DISARMAMENT AND FOR NUCLEAR

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TRUCE ARE INTENSELY GOING ON, ACTIONS INTENDED TO CREATE BASES WHERE THEY DO NOT EXIST APPEAR CONTRADICTORY, INCREASE CONCERN WHERE IN GREAT MEASURE ALREADY EXISTED, AND FURTHER AGGRAVATE UNCERTAIN EQUILIBRIUM IN WHOSE MAINTENANCE, IN EXPECTATION OF ARRIVING AT REASONABLE AND FAITHFUL AGREEMENTS, DEPENDS STILL THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE IN THE WORLD.

ITALY CONSIDERS POSITIVE FACT THAT IN MOMENT WHEN GRAVE ALARM WAS SOUNDED, GOVERNMENT OF UNITED STATES ASKED UN TO TAKE DECISION WHICH, UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONTROL, WOULD ASCERTAIN AND ELIMINATE CAUSES OF ALARM. THIS REQUEST OPENS NEW PATH WHICH CAN RESOLVE PEACEFULLY CRISIS WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD BE FULL OF UNFORESEEN AND MOST GRAVE CONSEQUENCES.

AND FOR THIS COURSE OF ACTION, WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS REQUESTED AND WHICH WAS TODAY BROUGHT TO UN, SOLIDARITY OF ITALY CANNOT, NATURALLY, BE LACKING TO OUR FRIEND AND ALLIED NATION. GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT JUST SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND AT UN, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF WILL SHOWN BY US TO BE READY FOR ANY INITIATIVE FOR PEACE. THIS WAS INDICATED BY THE DIRECT APPEAL FOR COOPERATION MADE TO HIGHEST RESPONSIBLE SOVIET OFFICIALS.

THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CONFINE ITSELF TO ONLY EXPRESSING A WISH, BUT ONCE AGAIN IS WORKING IN A WAY THAT THE DESIRE FOR PEACE, AS EXPRESSED BY THE US, BE UTILIZED IN THIS IMPORTANT CONSTRUCTIVE PROCESS, FOR WHOSE HAPPY ENDING THE ACCEPTANCE OF KENNEDY'S WARM APPEAL ON THE PART OF KHRUSHCHEV CAN BE DECISIVE.

ALL GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD, MINDFUL ALSO OF A RECENT APPEAL BY A VERY HIGH AUTHORITY, HAVE THE DUTY TO CONTRIBUTE TODAY MORE THAN EVER TO THE FULL SUCCESS OF THIS VERY DIFFICULT WORK. THE GOVERNMENT, IN SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY WITH ITALIAN ALLIES, IS ENGAGED TENACIOUSLY AND CONCRETELY, IN THIS DUTY IN THE MOST CONSISTENT MANNER. THIS, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS DONE WITH CONTACTS AND WITH LETTERS DURING THE PAST 24-HOURS; THIS WAS DONE BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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AT THE MEETING THIS MORNING OF THE SIX FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE COMMON MARKET AT BRUSSELS; THIS WILL BE DONE AT THE UN BY UNDER-SECRETARY RUSSO, WHO WILL ARRIVE IN NEW YORK TOMORROW. THIS IS VERY DIFFICULT WORK AND FOR ITS SUCCESS THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS THE COOPERATION OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE A POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY TO PERFORM AND OF ALL THE CITIZENS.

THEREFORE, GOVERNMENT TRUSTS THAT IN ANY MANIFESTATION OF OPINION OR THOUGHT, ALL WILL MAINTAIN A RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE WHICH COULD FACILITATE THIS VERY DIFFICULT WORK OF PEACE, WHOSE CROWNING IS TO BE FOUND IN ASPIRATIONS OF ALL ITALIANS.

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